IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A temperature-indicating element for a refrigeration device, comprising:
a backing;
a thermochromic layer applied to said backing for indicating a predetermined desired temperature; and
said thermochromic layer enclosed between said backing and a transparent protective layer.

14. (Currently Amended) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 13, including said transparent layer formed from a casting compound that is a selected one of a plastic room temperature curable material, a polyurethane material, a vacuum treated material which is then cured, or a casting compound that is none of a plastic room temperature curable material, a polyurethane material, and a vacuum treated material which is then cured.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 13, including said backing formed from an aluminum metal plate.

19. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 14, including said backing enclosed between said casting compound and a film.

20. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 13, including said backing embedded in a backing element and covered by said transparent layer.

21. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 19, including said film printed on the side facing said casting compound.

22. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 19, including a preferred orientation mark for mounting said element in the refrigeration device.

23. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 13, including said thermochromic layer provided with an orientation mark discernible at room temperature.

24. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 23, including a complementary mark complementary to said orientation mark of said thermochromic layer.

25. (Previously Presented) A refrigeration device, comprising:
a temperature-indicating element;

said temperature-indicating element including a backing;
a thermochromic layer applied to said backing, said thermochromic layer including thermochromic pigment elements that change color at about +4° C for visually indicating a predetermined desired temperature; and
said thermochromic layer enclosed between said backing and a transparent protective layer formed from a casting compound.

26. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 25, including said backing formed from an aluminum metal plate.

27. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 25, including said backing enclosed between said casting compound and a film.

28. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 25, including a preferred orientation mark for mounting said element in the refrigeration device.

29. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 28, including said thermochromic layer provided with an orientation mark discernible at room temperature.

30. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 29, including said film provided with a complementary mark complementary to said orientation mark of said thermochromic layer.

31. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to Claim 25, including a temperature zone in the refrigeration device and said temperature-indicating element located in said temperature zone backing

for indicating said predetermined desired temperature in said temperature zone.

32. (Currently Amended) A temperature-indicating element for a refrigeration device, comprising:
a backing;
a thermochromic layer applied to said backing, said thermochromic layer having a pigment of a given color and changing to a pigment of a different color when the refrigeration device passes below a predetermined desired temperature;
said thermochromic layer enclosed between said backing and a transparent protective layer; and
an indicator display including a contrast indication element for indicating that the atmosphere within the refrigeration device has passed below said predetermined desired temperature, said contrast indication element being disposed relative to said thermochromic layer such that said contrast indication element visually contrasts with the pigment of the different color and the extent of the visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the different color being such that this visual contrast with the pigment of the different color is greater than a visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the given color, whereby a user can perceive via the visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the different color that the temperature of the refrigeration device has passed below said predetermined desired temperature.

33. (Previously Presented) The temperature-indicating element for a refrigeration device according to claim 32, wherein the extent of the visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the

different color is such that said contrast indication element is visually perceptible when the temperature of the refrigeration device has passed below said predetermined desired temperature and the visual contrast of said contrast indication element with the pigment of the given color, which is the respective pigment color of said thermochromic backing when the temperature of the refrigeration device is above said predetermined desired temperature, is so insignificant that said contrast indication element is substantially visually imperceptible.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) A refrigeration device comprising:
a body defining a refrigeration compartment for refrigerated storage of food items requiring a regulated environment for preservation, the regulated environment being maintained at no greater than the maximum temperature, the refrigeration compartment being delimited by a plurality of interior surfaces and the body having a food item support member in the refrigeration compartment for supporting food items in the regulated environment for maintaining food items at no greater than the maximum temperature; and
a temperature indication device disposed within the refrigeration compartment and having one hemisphere forming one half of the temperature indication device and another hemisphere forming the other half of the temperature indication device, the temperature indication device including a temperature sensitive display element disposed in the one hemisphere, the temperature indication device having a display and the temperature indication device being disposed in the refrigeration compartment with the temperature sensitive display element sufficiently proximate to the food item support member that a display characteristic of

the display of the temperature sensitive display element varies in correspondence with predetermined temperature changes in a food item supported on the food item support member, and the display of the temperature sensitive display element is operable to display human readable indicia having a display characteristic that varies in correspondence with a predetermined temperature change in a food item supported on the food item support member and the human readable indicia being displayed in the one hemisphere of the temperature indication device in a manner such that human readable indicia is in an upright configuration for proper viewing when the one hemisphere of the temperature indication device is oriented in a predetermined installed orientation within the refrigerator compartment, and the temperature indication device including an asymmetrical set up indicia for visually indicating to a user that the one hemisphere of the temperature indication device is in the predetermined installed orientation, whereupon the human readable indicia is thereby in its upright configuration for proper viewing.

36. (New) The refrigeration device according to Claim 35, wherein the temperature sensitive display element disposes the human readable indicia between a non-readable condition in which the human readable indicia is substantially unreadable by a user and a read available condition in which the human readable indicia is readable by a user and the temperature sensitive display element disposing the human readable indicia in a non-readable condition when the temperature is greater than the maximum temperature and disposing the human readable indicia in a read available condition when the temperature is no greater than the maximum temperature.

37. (New) The refrigeration device according to Claim 36, wherein the asymettrical set up indicia is disposed in the other hemisphere of the temperature indication device.